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**SUNDAY MOVIE BILL HEARING
PRODUCES EXCITING DEBATE**

Score of Speakers Argued For
and Against Opening of
Theaters on Sabbath

For nearly three hours and a half last evening the military and public affairs committee of the senate listened to a free-for-all debate on house bill 124, the Sunday movies measure, one of the hottest and most interesting legislative battles fought since the legislature has been in session. The proponents and antagonists literally jacked the senate chamber, until scores were standing around the sides, in the doorways and aisles.

It was the best turnout of the public to a committee session yet experienced and when the meeting adjourned at 10:45 o'clock Chairman James L. Cooke, in thanking the men and women for their interest, declared that if the citizens would show equal interest in other legislative measures there would be more good bills and fewer bad ones.

Practically every religious organization in Honolulu was represented at the session, either by its minister or accredited representative. A number of petitions of protest against the bill were presented by these. Fifteen or 20 men spoke against the bill. Opposed to these were several Hawaiians, Representative Norman K. Lyman and E. K. Fernandez, the introducer of the measure in the lower house; Joel C. Cohen and J. A. Magoon, the two latter representing the Consolidated Amusement Company. Cohen also filed a petition which he said bore the signatures of 200 voters. Leading the forces which objected to the bill's passage were Rev. Dornus Scudder, Bishop Restarick, Rev. D. C. Peters, Rev. Akaka Akana and representatives of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ, Latter Day Saints.

The discussion was anything but dry, and at times was enlivened by sharp tilts of a highly personal character.

Bishop Restarick declared his principal objection to the idea of permitting motion pictures to be shown in the theaters Sunday afternoon and night was that it kept men working seven days a week. Moreover, said he, the bill is loosely constructed. It provides for the display of pictures of a religious and educational character, but does not specify what shall decide whether they are educational or religious. He emphasized the seven-day working feature, citing the fact that actors on the mainland dislike to appear in the West because the laws there permit Sunday theaters.

Rev. S. L. Desha, senator from Hilo, asserted the lawmakers are giving too much time to this question of comparative unimportance. They should reject the measure and give their attention to the larger affairs of state, he said. He compared Sunday theaters to Sunday baseball and related an instance wherein he said the Sunday baseball law now in effect was the direct cause of two young fellows of his acquaintance being in prison. Until the law went into effect these boys attended church. Afterward they went to baseball games, were drawn away from good teaching and eventually landed in the law's toils. They are now doing time in jail. Representative Hale also spoke against the measure, telling a parable of a rich man who had seven dollars and gave six of them to a poor man. The poor man squandered his six dollars and came back to the rich man, begging for the seventh. This was the church's case, he said.

J. E. Kahoa of Pearl City declared motion pictures an unmitigated evil, leading boys and girls astray. His own boys, he asserted, had been prosecuted in the district court several times for theft. When he asked them where they got their ideas for committing such crimes they said they had learned the trick at the movies. Rev. Peters declared people had six days in which to attend the theaters and get their entertainment; they should not take away the one day in the week to which the church is entitled. He scoffed at the argument that the laboring man needs Sunday for recreation and entertainment. The average working man, he averred, finishes his work before 5 o'clock in the evening, has ample time to go home, clean up, eat his dinner and spend the evening at shows, if he desires.

Representative Norman Lyman said he had been sent by the laboring men of Hawaii to the legislature to help enact a law giving them more Sunday amusement. He pointed out the argument that the movie tends to lower the moral tone of the community.

"Are we going to lower the moral tone of the people by motion pictures on Sunday, yet not lower it on Monday, Tuesday or any of the other days of the week?" he asked.

F. H. Conrad, a Seventh Day Adventist, cited the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving the people the right to religious liberty.

"I don't want laws passed compelling the people to attend my church," he argued. "If they want to attend theaters or baseball games I have no legal right to stop them."

Theatrical Men Want Bill Passed. Cohen defended the Sunday movie feature on the commercial and economic ground that he did not have to make his employees work seven days a week. There are so many men looking for work, he declared, that he can fill in his orchestra and machine workmen from the ranks of the unemployed. Defending the feature of paying money for Sunday labor, he attacked the churches, declaring the ministers are paid for their Sunday labor. Also, he said, the churches hire high-priced singers and musicians, paying big

money to get them to work on Sunday in the churches.

On the moral side, he declared the moral value of motion pictures was proven by the fact that the church people themselves had tried to give such shows on Sunday in Honolulu; he even asserted that one church in Massachusetts is establishing a motion picture theater as an adjunct to its regular business.

As to the danger of taking the people from the church's pews, he said that if this law should not go into effect the churches would have no larger attendance. Yet if the ministers would count the number of young men and women between the ages of 15 and 25 years at their churches Sunday evening he would take those clergymen out and show them six times as many young men and women in the highways and byways, in the dark, secluded parks and outskirts of Honolulu, seeking questionable pleasures on Sunday evening. The Sunday movies would not keep the church people from attending church, but would appeal to the young folks who do not go to church but spend their time walking the streets or strolling in the parks.

Magoon read the present territorial statute relating to Sunday observance. He read in particular the list of exemptions, activities not restrained on the Sabbath. Leading these was the newspaper business. The list was a long one, ending with outdoor amusements. Yet he said the innocent motion picture show is proscribed. Then he declared this is a republican, not a religious government and that the majority should rule. No pictures shown on the screen, said he, are as low as sometimes appear in the Sunday newspapers. He was willing the films should be censored, but only to the end that they should be restricted to decent pictures.

**THROW AWAY YOUR
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Do you wear glasses? Are you a victim of eyestrain or other eye-weaknesses? If so, you will be glad to know that there is real hope for you. Many whose eyes were failing, say they have had their eyes restored through the principle of this wonderful free prescription. One man says, after trying it: "I was almost blind; could not see to read at all. Now I can read everything without any glasses and my eyes do not water any more. At night they would pain dreadfully; now they feel fine all the time. It was like a miracle to me." A lady who used it says: "The atmosphere seemed hazy with or without glasses, but after using this prescription for 15 days everything seems clear. I can even read fine print without glasses." It is believed that thousands who wear glasses can now discard them in a reasonable time and multitudes more will be able to strengthen their eyes so as to be spared the trouble and expense of ever getting glasses. Eye troubles of many descriptions may be wonderfully benefited by following the simple rules. Here is the prescription: Go to any active drug store and get a bottle of Optona. Fill a two-ounce bottle with warm water, drop in one Optona tablet and allow to dissolve. With this liquid, bathe the eyes two to four times daily. You should notice your eyes clear up perceptibly right from the start and inflammation will quickly disappear. If your eyes are bothering you, even a little, take steps to save them now before it is too late. Many hopelessly blind might have been saved if they had cared for their eyes in time.—advertisement.

**KOHALA SHUTS DOWN
THROUGH ACCIDENT**

As the result of an accident last week the Kohala Sugar Company's plantation has had to suspend operations for two or three weeks. The cylinder head of the engine operating the first mill and crusher was smashed, the crank-pin coming out on the first roller.

The suspension at this time is particularly hard, as the weather is especially favorable for grinding. This added to the handicap on the plantation last year by heavy rains is a double load. Notwithstanding, the crop this year will run 7000 tons, the largest in Kohala's history, according to T. H. Petrie of Castle & Cooke.

The Catholic Ladies' Aid Society will hold a meeting on the roof garden of the Alexander Young hotel on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock.

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